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NEYLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1950

W.J.Y.Speedy.

M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P. & S., L.R.C.F. & S., D.P.H.

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General Hygiene & Sanitation

District Health Department,
10, Picton Place,
Haverfordwest.

September, 1951.

To the Chairman & Members
of the Sanitary Committee,

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth annual Report upon matters affecting the public health of the District.

The population of the District continues to increase, the increase since 1947 being 400.

There was a considerable drop in the total number of births during the year, and this is reflected in the lower Birth-Rate of 14.0 per 1000 population. The Birth-Rate generally throughout the country is falling. Some of the reasons for this fall in Birth-Rate are:-

- (1) the economic situation
- (2) the uncertainty in world politics and
- (3) inadequate housing facilities.

The local Birth-rate has fallen from 22.7 in 1947 to the present Rate.

There was an unexpected rise in the number of Still-Births. It was an unfortunate statistical year in this respect, as the previous two years were void of Still-Births. The causes of the high Still Birth Rate would require very detailed investigation.

The number of illegitimate Births i.e.l, remained the same as for the preceding year.

There was a slight increase in the total number of deaths during the year, which is reflected in the slightly increased Death-Rate. The Death-Rate, however, still compares favourably with the Rate for the County, and for the whole of England and Wales. This is all the more satisfactory when it is noted that 57% of all deaths were in persons of 70 years of age or more.

There was also an increase in the number of Infant Deaths, but the figures involved are so small that it is difficult to draw any conclusions.

The number of deaths due to Cancer remained the same as for the preceding year. This is satisfactory in view of the fact that Cancer is generally on the increase throughout the Country.

It is satisfactory to record no mortality due to Maternal and Violent Deaths for the third successive year. There was also no death due to Tuberculosis during the year.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases was again low. The absence of Poliomyelitis.

Diphtheria will be noted. There has not been a case of Diphtheris in the District for a considerable number of years.

There was a small increase in the number of fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but, for the second successive year, there have been no deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. One fresh case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified. There were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the third successive year.

The sampling results of milk supplies show a vast improvement in the standard of cleanliness in production and handling of milk. A large part of this improvement is undoubtedly due to the Sampling Scheme. The peak has probably now been reached, but continuance of the Scheme is necessary to maintain the standard now attained.

The Chemical control of the water supply, as well as the bacteriological control, is stressed in this report. It is satisfactory to note the large number of house connections during the year and the considerable decrease in street standards.

Housing progress decreased considerably over the preceding year. The housing need is still great in the District.

It is satisfactory to note the completion of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. The full hygienic effect, however, will only be attained when house connections are complete.

The co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory must be acknowledged, especially in connection with milk and ice-cream, and water sampling, and in the control of Infectious Diseases.

I wish, also, to thank all the members and officials of the Council for their courtesy, co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) W.J.Y.Speedy

PART 1.VITAL STATISTICS & EPIDEMIOLOGY.SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

1.	ESTIMATED MID-YEAR POPULATION	2,420.	(2360)
2.	NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION (i.e., Live Births minus Deaths)	+6.	(+15)
(a) 3.	CRUDE DEATH-RATE	11.5.	(11.4)
(a) 4.	BIRTH-RATE	14.0	(17.8)
(b) 5.	INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	58.8	(23.8)
(c) 6.	MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE	Nil.	(nil)
(a) 7.	STILL BIRTH-RATE	2.07	(Nil)
(a) 8.	ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH-RATE	0.41.	(0.42)
(a) 9.	CANCER DEATH-RATE	2.6.	(2.1.)
(a) 10.	PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATE	Nil.	(Nil)
(a) 11.	NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATE	Nil.	(Nil)
(a) 12.	NOTIFICATION RATE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	0.82.	(0.42)
(a) 13.	NOTIFICATION RATE OF NON- PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS	0.41	(Nil)
(a)	Per 1000 population		
(b)	Per 1000 live births		
(c)	Per 1000 Total births		

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATES.Classification of Births.

	Live Births			Still Births		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	15.	18.	33.	4.	1.	5
Illegitimate,	1	-	1	-	-	-
	---	---	---	---	---	---
	16.	18.	34.	4.	1.	5.
	---	---	---	---	---	---

Total Births (Live & Still) for 1950 = 39. (42)
 Total Live Births for 1950 = 34. (42)
 Total Still Births for 1950 = 5. (Nil)
 Total illegitimate Births for 1950. = 1. (1)

Birth-Rates.

Birth-Rate for the District for 1950 = 14.0. (17.8)
 Birth-Rate for the County for 1950 = 16.4 (16.7)
 Birth-Rate for England & Wales
 for 1950 = 15.8. (16.7)

Still Birth-Rate for the District
for 1950 = 2.07 (Nil)

Still Birth-Rate for England
& Wales for 1950 = 0.37

Illegitimate Birth-Rate for the District for 1950	=	0.41(0.42)
Illegitimate Birth-Rate for England & Wales for 1950	=	

Discussion of Birth Statistics.

There has been a considerable drop in the number of Live births over the preceding year. This is reflected in a drop in the Birth-Rate from 17.8 in 1949 to 14.0 in 1950. The Birth-Rate is falling in most parts of the Country, but not so rapidly as the decrease shown locally.

There have been an unusually high number of Still-Births in 1950. The exact reason for this is not known, but it may be partly due to inadequate ante-natal care.

The illegitimate Birth-Rate remains the same as for the preceding year.

DEATHS & DEATH-RATES.

Crude Death-Rate.

Total deaths registered in 1950 = 28. (27)

Death-Rate for the District for 1950 = 11.5 (11.4)

Death-Rate for the County for 1950 = 12.2 (12.5)

Death-Rate for England & Wales = 11.6 (11.7)

for 1950

Corrected Death-Rate.

Comparability Factor = 1.05
Corrected Death-Rate = 12.0

Classification of Deaths.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System.	5.	3.	8.
Cancer (all forms)	4.	1.	5.
Bronchitis.	1.	3.	4.
Infectious Diseases.	2.	-	2.
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	2	-	2
Diseases of Kidneys & Urinary System	2	-	2
Violent Deaths.	1.	1.	2
Diseases of Digestive System	1.	-	1.
Unclassified	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>
Total	19.	9.	28.

Deaths according to Age-groups:-

0 - 1 years	= 2	30 - 50 years	= 1
1 - 15 "	= 1	50 - 70 "	= 7
15 - 30 "	= 1	70+ "	16 (57.1%)

Cancer Mortality

There were 5 deaths due to Cancer, or 17.8% of total deaths. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 5 and 18%.
The Cancer Death-Rate for 1950 is 2.6 per 1000 of population.

Infantile Mortality.

The following infant deaths (i.e. children under 1 year of age) took place during the year.

Males	1	
Females	<u>1</u>	
	2	(1)

Infantile Mortality Rate for the District
for 1950 = 58.8(23.8)

Infantile Mortality Rate for the County
for 1950 = 31.1(37.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate for England &
Wales for 1950 = 29.8(32)

Maternal Mortality - Nil.

Violent Deaths - Nil

Infectious Diseases Mortality }
Tuberculosis Mortality } see later chapters.

Discussion of Death Statistics.

The total number of deaths increased by one over the preceding year. This results in a very slight increase of the Death-Rate from 11.4 to 11.5. In spite of this increase the Death-Rate compares most favourable with the County Rate, and the Rate for the whole of England and Wales. This is all the more satisfactory when it is noted that 57% of all deaths were in persons over 70 years of age. It will also be noted that there was a much greater mortality amongst Males, than amongst Females.

There were the same number of cancer deaths as for the preceding year. This must be considered satisfactory, in view of the fact that Cancer is on the increase in most districts. The two measures which are most likely to reduce Cancer Mortality are (1) education of the public, and, (2) the setting up of special Cancer detection clinics. The economic situation today precludes the latter measure for some time to come.

There has been an increase in Infant Mortality. This is unfortunate, but the figures are so small that even 1 extra death makes a large difference in the Mortality Rate. There is, therefore, no cause for great alarm in this respect.

It is satisfactory to record no deaths during 1950 due to Violent causes, Tuberculosis. Maternal Mortality was also nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Measles	3.	3.	6
Scarlet Fever	1.	1.	2
Pneumonia	—	2.	2
	4	6	10 (9)
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The incidence of Infectious Diseases was approximately the same as for the preceding year, and remained low. The continued absence of Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis will be noted. It will also be seen that there were no cases of Whooping-Cough notified.

There were 2 deaths from Infectious Disease, representing 7.1% of total deaths

TUBERCULOSIS

Although Tuberculosis is an Infectious Disease, it is treated separately because of its importance in public health.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

i.e. Tuberculosis primarily affecting the lungs)

The following fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

Males	nil.	(nil)
Females	2.	(1)
	---	---
Total.	2.	(1)
	---	---

For the second successive year there were no deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year.

For the third successive year there were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is a summary of the Immunisation against Diphtheria carried out during the year:-

Primary Immunisation (0-5 years)

Sessional	39	
Private.	13	
Total	52.	52.

Re-inforcement Immunisations (5+ years)

	Nil	Nil
Total persons Immunised.		52. (43)

VACCINATION

The following is a summary of vaccinations against Smallpox during the year:-

Primary Vaccination

0 - 1 years	9.	9.
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Re-vaccination

nil	nil.
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Total persons vaccinated	9.(37)
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P A R T 11.ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.MILK SUPPLIES.

The Scheme for the general bacteriological examination of consumer milk supplies was continued during the year. Samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen for testing and reports. The Methylene Blue Reduction Test is the routine test employed.

The following is a summary of the sampling results during the year:-

Satisfactory	43 samples
Doubtful	5 "
Unsatisfactory	1 "

The following is a summary of the sampling results since the commencement of the scheme in 1948:-

	<u>% Samples</u> <u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>% Samples</u> <u>Doubtful.</u>	<u>% Samples</u> <u>Unsatisfact-</u> <u>ory.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Samples.</u>
1948	33.0	56.0	11.0	18.
1949	54.2	32.3	13.5	59.
1950	87.7	10.3	2.0	49

The large increase in the number of Satisfactory samples will be noted.

WATER SUPPLIESGeneral Statistics.

Estimated number of premises with piped water supply	= 95%(82%)
No. of premises supplied by street standards	= 5%(18%)
No. of new connections during the year	= 98.(72)
No. of Statutory Notices served.	2.(192)

Sampling.

General bacteriological testing of the water supply is carried out routinely with the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen.

The following is a summary of the sampling results during the year:-

Satisfactory	=	17 samples
Doubtful	=	3 "
Unsatisfactory	=	nil "

It is desirable to have a routine system of chemical testing of the water supply. This can be arranged with the Public Analyst. This matter was stressed in the report for 1949.

Source, Storage & Distribution of Water.

Details of source, storage and distribution are the same as given in previous Reports.

There has been, again, a large number of new house connections during the year. With continued progress in this direction the District will soon have a 100% piped supply

FOOD CONTROL

Registered Premises.

Sale of Ice-Cream.	4.
Slaughterhouses.	2.
Manufacture & Sale of Sausages etc.	3.
Knackers' Yards.	nil

No. of inspections of registered premises during year = 17 (since September 1950)

Foodstuffs Condemned.

The following is a summary of the food inspected and found unfit for human consumption during the year.

Meat	4 lbs.
Bacon	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Meat	4 tins
Tinned Fish	3 tins
Tinned Milk	19 tins
Tinned Foods (Various)	21 tins
Packeted Foods (Various)	10 packets.

Meat Inspection

As there is no slaughterhouse in use in the District there is no routine meat inspection.

Ice-Cream Supplies.

The Sampling of Ice-Cream for general bacteriological examination was commenced during the year. The results of sampling are as follows:-

Grade I	(Highly Satisfactory)	=	2 samples
Grade II.	(Satisfactory)	=	1 sample
Grade III.	(Doubtful)	=	1 sample
Grade IV.	(Unsatisfactory)	=	nil "

Total.			4 samples

These results are satisfactory, but sufficient samples were not taken. It is hoped that the scheme will be extended during 1951.

Food Preparation & Handling.

The Council has adopted the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Food regarding the Handling and Distribution of Food. Generally speaking, the standard of cleanliness in Food Shops is good. Personal hygiene is observed by servers in the shops. If there is any fault it is rather with the constructional side of these shops.. Many are ill-planned, small and cramped and ventilation could be improved. The Sanitary circumstances of many food shops are undesirable but it is hoped the present conversion scheme will remedy this defect. Some food shops are difficult to clean and dusty etc., but the proprietors do, apparently, make every effort to overcome these obstacles. In general the shops are satisfactory and the proprietors and servers are eager to co-operate and it is hoped that sanitary circumstances will soon improve.

Bakehouses.

Mineral Water Factories.

Food Poisoning.

} Nil to report.

Cafes, Hotels & Restaurants.

There is only one small cafe in the area. This was not run in a totally satisfactory manner during the year but has now changed hands. The new owners have greatly improved conditions and it is now regarded as satisfactory. There are no hotels or restaurants in the area.

----- HOUSING.

Housing Programme & Estates.

Only 6 houses were completed during the year. This is a large drop for the figure of 26 houses for the previous year. Towards the end of the year, however, a new estate of 16 houses was commenced, and expected to be ready in 1951.

The following is a summary of all housing controlled by the Council at 31st December, 1950.

Council houses	50
Temporary Housing unit	1
Requisitioned Premises.	1

Re-Housing and Overcrowding.

No. of Families re-housed in 1950	6.
No. of applications for re-housing	70.
No. of cases of overcrowding	30.

At the end of 1950, 52 families had been re-housed by Council

Inspections, Repairs, Demolitions etc.

Total No. of inspections under Housing Act = 70.
(Since September 1950)

Although a great number of houses in the District are in need of repair, there is difficulty in effecting such repairs. This is due mainly to the shortage of labour and materials and to the fact that local builders are overwhelmed with work. A survey of worst houses has been made and in four cases, it is anticipated that, failing satisfactory proposals by the owners of the properties, Demolition Orders will be made.

Many applications for grants under the Housing Act, 1949 have been received and approved by Council. This is helping slightly to improve the standard of Housing in the District. A general survey covering all houses is necessary, but not immediately obtainable. It is hoped that such survey can be commenced in 1951, and carried through until the whole district is covered.

Conclusion.

There is need for a continued and larger housing programme to meet the needs in the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following is the number of factories in the District, sub-divided into powered or non-powered:-

Powered.	11.
Non-powered	4

	15.

No. of inspections made (since September). 7.

There are no outworkers in the District.

GENERAL SANITATION & HYGIENE.

Refuse Disposal.

Collections are made twice weekly of household refuse and night-soil by low-loader refuse lorry. Refuse is disposed of by tipping on Council Tip.

Sewage Disposal

The sewerage scheme serving the whole district is now complete and the Sewage Disposal Plant is in operation. A scheme for privy conversion throughout the district was commenced in December, with the Honeyborough Area forming the first of six contracts. It is hoped that two years will see all properties connected to the sewer.

Public Conveniences.

There is only one Public Convenience for males in Neyland. There is no convenience for females. It is recommended that a convenience for females which is much in demand, be provided at the earliest opportunity. It is noted that existing Male Convenience is ill-used and in poor condition as a result of vandalism.

General Nuisances.

6 Informal notices have been served, and Statutory Powers obtained in three of these.

Disinfection & Disinfestation.

Figures for the whole of the year are not available but since September 2 premises were disinfected and 3 disinfested.

Street Cleansing.

Carried out by Surveyor's Dept. Present service is sufficient.

Rodent Control.

A large scale poison treatment of the infestation on Council's Tip was prepared and put into operation in July and August. Figures are not available but it is believed some 300 rats were killed. A further treatment is prepared for February 1951. One part-time rodent operative is employed.

Offensive Trades, Smoke Abatement, Burial of Vagrant Dead, Common Lodging Houses, Removal of persons in need of Care and Attention etc.

Nil to report.